SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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ADDRESS:
HT 1217 B-SVN
C/O
FRONALI PHNOM-PENH
53 Samdech Pann Phnom-Penh
CAMBODIA

DAZIMINA HANOI
19 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries

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editorial:

Stubbornness and Craftiness will only bring about Heavy Defeats

BITTER failures have compelled the Americans and their puppets to sit at the Paris Conference table with the representatives of the DRVN and the NFL. But they still remain very stubborn, brutal and crafty.

In South Viet Nam, they are bending energies on the intensification of the US war of aggression to build a "position of strength", accumulating countless crimes against our people. In implementation of the "accelerated pacification" program "sweeps" are being feverishly carried out to herd the population into concentration zones. Police raids and searches occur everyday in the occupied areas, including towns and cities. Entire agglomerations have been reduced to ashes and entire villages razed to the ground by napalm, demolition-bombs and artillery shells. One has witnessed savage massacres of hundreds of people at a time in several places such as at Ba Lang An where nearly a thousand civilians were arrested and thrown into the sea. Carpet-bombing by strategic superfortresses B-52 have completely destroyed many areas. Poison gas and chemicals sprayed by US aircraft or artillery bullets have affected innocent people, killed domestic animals and defoliated the vegetation. The crimes committed by the aggressors are intolerable.

In order to conceal their atrocities and fool public opinion, the US imperialists are trumpeting about "war deescalation" by the Nixon administration Pronouncements on the "curtailment of B-52 activities", "reduction of warships" and the "maintaining of mopping-up operations at the present level", etc. are nothing else than an integral part of a perfidious scheme. On the other hand, rumours are spread by Washington that the Paris Conference has made "progress" while a noisy move is started to generate the belief that "private talks" constitute the only way to a "final solution" of the Viet Nam war. On last April 1, the puppet Nguyen Van Thieu, with Washington pulling the wires behind the scene, stated his position in "six points concerning the restoration of peace". This is in reality a roneotyped copy of the US claims which run counter to the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people, the five-point stand of the NFL regarding a correct settlement of the South Vietnamese problem and the four-point stand of the DRVN. With his "six points" Thieu arrogantly demands that the South Vietnamese people, who are defeating 1,200,000 American and puppet troops, put an end to their struggle, and that the NFL — their authentic representative-dissolves on its own. Washington's scheme remains what is was sticking to the political corpse of Thieu-Ky-Huong as an instrument for the preservation of the US neo-colonialist rule over South Viet Nam.

Reality has perfectly shown that the US-puppets' utterances in Washington, in Saigon and at the Paris Conference are just intended to cover up their crimes as well as their scheme and practical deeds aimed at intensifying the war. Their acts, however, give the lie to their protestations and expose their brutal and crafty nature.

Indignant people in every continent condemn the US aggressors and Thieu-Ky-Huong their agents. Dozens of thousands of people in many cities of the US went out into the streets demanding that the Nixon administration end the US dirty war of aggression. Many among political circles demand the withdrawal of American forces from South Viet Nam.

THE South Vietnamese, victim of intensification of the war by the US, have perfectly the right to go on delivering well-deserved counter-blows at its expeditionary troops as well as at those of its puppets and satellites. The counter-blows that these criminal forces have experienced will increase in fierceness if they

(Continued page 4)

GUERILLA OF THU BON AREA
(Quang Nam province)
Water-colour of VINH NGUYEN

35 Days of PLAF Valiant Fighting and Big Victories

(page 3)

THE policy of savage massacres and destruction failed to save the Hitlerite fascists in the past. Neither can they save the US aggressors and their flunkeys in South Viet Nam at present. We energetically denounce this extremely savage policy of the US aggressors and their lackeys to public opinion at home and abroad. We earnestly call on the peoples of other countries including the American people, international democratic] organisations, social activists, lawyers, and civil right, religious and peace militants in the world to sternly condemn the US and its puppets, take every positive measure to help check their bloody hands in South Viet Nam.

(Appeal of the Committee to Denounce War Crimes committed by the US imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Nam).

When will the US bring itself to end its war of aggression?

At the 11th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on April 3, Tran Buu Kiem, head of the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, spoke first. He said that the Paris Conference had not made any progress so far because the US government had continued its policy of aggression and war intensification in South Viet Nam, had hung on to the Saigon puppet administration and tried to secure a "position of strength" both on the battlefield and at the conference table.

With concrete evidence, he denounced the US for increasing the bombardments in South Viet Nam, increasing the troops strength and equipment of the puppet army and instigating the Saigon administration to intensify the persecution and repression of South Viet Nam townspeople of various strata.

Tran Buu Kiem quoted many American senators as acknowledging recently the US acts of war intensification.

Laying bare the US ballyhoo about "private talks", Tran Buu Kiem quoted the statement of March 27, 1969 of the spokesman for the Central Committee of the NFL as saying: "The US-puppets' proposal for "private talks" between the Saigon puppet administration and the NFL is but a cunning move to camouflage the bellicose and obdurate attitude of the US and to hoodwink the world's people and progressive public in the United States now demanding the Nixon administration to put an early end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The decisive question is not to talk this way or that way, but whether or not the Nixon administration wants to put an end to its aggression against Viet Nam, whether or not it wants to withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam."

After pointing out the heavy failures sustained by the US in its aggressive war in Viet Nam, Tran Buu Kiem referred to the movement of the people in the United States and other countries who had demonstrated over recent days to demand that the Nixon administration stop its aggressive war in Viet Nam.

He said: *There is only one honourable way for the US to get out of the deadlock in Viet Nam, that is to give up its aggressive and neo-colonialist policy, stop hanging on to the warlike and rotten Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs in accordance with the Political Program of the NFL, without foreign interference.*

Tran Buu Kiem said: This is an urgent and fully justified demand of the South Vietnamese people, a demand conforming to morality and law. It enjoys support from broad public opinion in the world.

Tran Buu Kiem condemned the US for setting conditions for the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam with a view to prolonging the illegal occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops.

Tran Buu Kiem condemned the Saigon administration for strying to maintain the US and satellite troops in South Viet Nam to trample upon Viet Nam's sovereignty and national independence and massacre the people there.

He stressed: "The time has come for the US to give a clear answer to the people of Viet Nam, the USA and the world: *when will it bring itself to end its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and withdraw all its troops and the troops of its satellite from South Viet Nam without setting any condition whatsoever*".

Responsibility fully rests on United-States side

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam has met in 12 sessions, yet no progress has been made so far. Using deceitful contentions, Cabot Lodge, the US Government's representative, has tried his best to deny the US crime of aggression and the treason of the Saigon puppet administration, an instrument of the US. He has exerted himself to distort the sacred resistance war of the Vietnamese people against the US aggression, for national salvation and deny the role of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the organizer and leader of the 14 million South Vietnamese people in the fight to defeat the US aggressors and their flunkeys. Under the pretence of good will, he proposed 'mutual withdrawal' and the 'restoration of the demilitarized zone status' with a view to deceiving public opinion and covering up the crimes of the US which is leaving no stone unturned to intensify its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and continue the sabotage of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. To hide the repeated defeats of the US- puppet and satellite troops on the battlefield, Cabot Lodge rehearsed the habitual slander of the warmongering circles in the US administration against the South Viet Nam people and liberation armed forces and their arrogant demand that the latter stop their struggle and give the US and its puppets a free hand to carry out aggression and betrayal. On March 25, US President Nixon in Washington and his puppet Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon made great noises about what they called "private talks" with the aim of fooling public opinion which is angrily condemning them for unceasingly stepping up the war of aggression on the battlefield and obstinately evading the most basic problem on the conference table, i.e. because the US has launched an aggression, it must end that aggression and withdraw unconditionally all its troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam.

The last to sessions of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam have fully shown to public opinion and the people of the world that the US is the aggressor against Viet Nam, the saboteur of the whole 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law, that the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration is but a clique of traitors who have brought in elephants to trample upon the tombs of their own ancestors and nothing short of an instrument of the US representing nobody. History of the past 25 years has amply proved this truth: the US war of aggression and neo-colonialism lie at the root of the serious situation in South Viet Nam and also of all the sufferings of the Vietnamese people.

The more the US warmongers and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of tyrants deny the fact, the more they reveal their dirty aggressive and traitorous nature. Since November 1968, the US has continued to bring additional American and Thai troops to South Viet Nam, endeavoured to consolidate the puppet army and administration, launched repeated raids against the people, gone ahead with the concentration of the population, increased B.52 bombing of heavily populated areas including areas close to cities. The US and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique have carried out doomsday repression of various sections of the people in South Viet Nam's cities who are demanding peace and independence, an end to the US aggression, overthrow of the puppet clique and establishement of a peace cabinet that would talk seriously with the South Viet Nam NFL. The harder the US tries to present the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique as a «legal» and «genuine» administration, the more it exposes the latter's true nature as a dictatorial and fascist regime which only serves as a tool of the US and represents nobody. The Vietnamese people are determined to overthrow this administration and the world people are spurning it.

At the Paris Conference, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique has been acting merely as a mouthpiece of the US. So long as the US refuses to get rid of its henchmen — the Saigon puppet administration — and to get out of South Viet Nam, it will invite upon itself more ignominious setbacks.

The South Vietnamese people's struggle for genuine peace, independence and freedom unter the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam NFL is entirely just. The 5-point stand of the South Viet Nam NFL and the 4-point stand of the Government of the DRVN which have been warmly welcomed and supported by the world's people, are a logical and reasonable basis for a correct solution to the South Viet Nam problem, and the Viet Nam issue as a whole. In the last 12 sessions of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, with their serious and goodwill attitude, the delegation of the NFL and that of the DRVN Government persistently expounded this correct, justice-radiating stand of the Vietnamese people. The people and NFL of South Viet Nam most emphatically demand that the US seriously discuss the most important question, i.e. the US must stop its aggression, withdraw unconditionally all American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs in accordance with the NFL Political Program, without US interference. The South Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace, but that must be a peace in independence and freedom. As long as the US continues its aggression, the Vietnamese people will persistently carry on their struggle to drive the aggressors out of the country. This is the sacred imprescriptible right of self-defence of the Vietnamese people.

The whole world has clearly seen the stubborness of the US in its aggression. The US which has groundlessly delayed the opening of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, is preventing the conference from making progress. It must bear full responsibility for this state of affairs. No obdurate, brutal and crafty act of the US and its hirelings can help them get out of their losing position in South Viet Nam. The US failure is evident. The more the US is stubborn, the quicker it will slide down to complete failure.

If the US really wants a conclusion of the war "in the right manner" as US President Nixon claimed on March 25, 1969, it must end its aggressive war, withdraw completely and unconditionally American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam. This is a categoric demand of the Vietnamese people, a legitimate aspiration and interest of the American people and also an urgent demand of the peace- and justice-loving people in the world who are giving vigorous support to the Vietnamese people.

BINH NGUYEN

من نصف مليون جندي امريكي ، هذا الشاير
الامريكيين الذين ظومون بغارانهم من القاعدة

الجنرال يويان كاوكي قائد جيش
نهائم الجنوبية يضع في جراب مسدسه
« دين راسك »

"Independence" of the Saigon administration and the true face of Nguyen Cao Ky as viewed by an Arab drawer.

WATTANY, a RAU newspaper.

Military notebook

35 days of PLAF valiant fighting and big victories

March 1969

(Excerpts from the PLAF Command's Communique on April 6, 1969)

THE PLAF Command on April 6 issued a communique on the victories the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces had recorded in the 5 weeks beginning February 22 this year.

The communique said:

"The powerful Spring offensive and uprising of our armed forces and people which broke out simultaneously on the night of February 22, 1969, has been going mightily and continually over the past five weeks on all the battlefields of South Viet Nam, from the Ben Hai river to the Point of Ca Mau, from towns to the countryside. All the People's Liberation Armed Forces, standing shoulder to shoulder with the people, have dealt repeated thunder blows at the US and its puppets and satellites, inflicting heavy losses on them scoring very glorious victories.

According to still incomplete figures, during 35 days of dauntless and valiant fighting, our armed forces and people:

— Killed, wounded or captured more than 104,000 enemy troops, including 52,000 GIs and over 4,000 Thai, Australian and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries;

— Wiped out or heavily decimated 35 battalion and mixed units of battalion size, and 160 companies of US, puppet and satellite troops;

— Shot down or destroyed on the ground 1,600 planes of various kinds and wrecked 2,900 military vehicles among them 1,440 tanks and armoured troop carriers; and

— Sank or set afire 275 vessels and combat launches, destroyed 530 cannons and heavy mortars, blew up 70 bridges, burnt down or exploded 270 depots of war supplies containing hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition and hundreds of millions of litres of petrol.

Taking into account the battle records since early January 1969, in the first three months of this year, our armed forces and people:

— Killed, wounded or captured more than 180,000 American and satellite soldiers.

— Put out of action or badly mauled 43 battalions or mixed units of battalion size, 4 armoured squadrons and 285 companies of US, puppet and satellite troops; and

— Shot down or destroyed on the ground 2,365 aircraft, sank or set ablaze 462 ships and combat launches, wrecked 5,090 military vehicles, including 2,146 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, destroyed 610 artillery pieces and heavy mortars, and burnt down 303 storages of bombs, ammunition, gasoline and other military equipment.

The glorious achievements of our armed forces and people in early Spring this year are characterized by the following:

1. We have simultaneously attacked almost all cities and towns, many of which were attacked repeatedly as Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Cam Ranh, Pleiku, Phuoc Long, My Tho, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Rach Gia, Chau Doc, etc. Many province capitals were hit from five to ten times. The self-defence forces among the towns people have developed incessantly, and have become proficient in both independent and co-ordinated fighting, striking with force and accuracy at enemy dens, repeatedly punishing cruel enemy agents, and closely co-ordinating actions with the people in many large-scale struggles for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration.

2. We have hit very hard and with high precision at many major military bases and headquarters of the US and its puppets and satellites. In particular, eight of the nine division commands and dozens of brigade bases of the US aggressors, have come under fire, many of them took enormous losses in successives attacks as was the case of the bases in Da Nang, Nui Que, Sung May and Chu Lai (Central Trung Bo), Dong Du and Dau Tieng (Eastern Nam Bo), and Dong Tam (Western Nam Bo)

3. The most striking feature of the attacks this time is that in the said 35-day period more American troops were wiped out than in forty five days of last Spring offensive. The "Americal" and 25th Infantry Divisions of the US took heavy beating, from the divisional command level down to brigade commands, and lost nearly half of their effectives. Many brigades cripped and their combat capacity fell drastically. The US 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division and 1st Marine Division also took heavy casualties. So did the puppet and satellite troops. Heavy losses were also inflicted on the puppet paratroop Division HQs, the CPs of the 3rd Paratroop Brigade and all the four battalions of this brigade belonging to the puppet army's general reserve, as well as the 42nd Regiment of the 23rd Division, and the 43rd Regiment of the 18th Division of the puppet army. The "Black Panther" Division of Thai mercenaries took reeling blows with 2 battalions and 3 companies put out of action in a fortnight.

4. Heavy losses were caused to a series of major supply bases and storages of bombs, ammunition, fuel and other military equipment, and important airfields and harbours of the enemy such as the ones in Da Nang, An Don, Bau Mac, Deo Son, Phu Tai, Nui Lo, Truong Ba Don, Nuoc Man, Chu Lai, Quy Nhon, Cam Ranh and Thanh Son (in the plains of Central Trung Bo), Dakto and Pleiku (on the High Plateaux), Long Binh, Bien Hoa and Nha Be (in Eastern Nam Bo), Binh Duc, Dong Tam, Tra Vinh and Bac Lieu (in the Mekong river delta), etc.

Many targets of these bases were attacked two or three times. In a single attack, we burnt down 90 million litres of petrol in Quy Nhon. In other actions in Phu Bai, Nui Lo and Truong Ba Don, we exploded 10,000 tons of bombs and ammunition and 8 millions litres of petrol. 80 planes and thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition were reduced to ashes in the Long Binh storage compound; and 2 million shells and other cartridges of various calibres were exploded in Dong Tam.

In the first 35 days on this Spring we destroyed 20 per cent more vessels and combat launches, and 85 per cent more heavy artillery pieces than in the corresponding period last year.

5. Along side military attacks, the popular uprising broke out widely and stirringly in enemy-controlled areas, from the cities and towns like Hoi An, Tam Ky and Quang Ngai to the mountain regions like Phuoc Long and Kontum. In thousands of villages from the coast of Trung Bo to the Mekong delta, our people, among them minority nationals and religious believers, rose up vigorously, punished enemy cruel agents, broke the enemy's control and took in hand their own destiny.

An enemy tank captured by the PLAF.
Photo: *GPA*

US hit aircraft crashing to the ground.

LET'S STAY THEIR BLOODY HANDS...

— A great number of civilian houses have been reduced to rubbish after US carpet-bombings.

Stubbornness...

(Continued from page 1)

pile up further atrocities. He that sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind. Fire and sword cannot conquer the South Vietnamese people. The Nixon administration should not harbore the illusion of creating a "position of strength" out of cruel war means. Neither can they fruitfully attempt to solve the South Vietnamese problem by roundabout manœuvres. There is only one "honourable" way out for the aggressors: the acceptation of a political solution on the basis of the NFL five-points and the DRVN four-points, the gist of which is the total and unconditional pull-out of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

By stubbornly trying to depart from this path and seeking to forge a "position of strength" by means of cruel and perfidious moves, the US aggressors cannot but meet with heavier defeats.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

Kong H'Ring :

Retaliatory action against minority people

The concentration camp of Kong H'Rin was located close to Road No 14, 22 Km north of the provincial capital of Kontum. Here the Americans and their henchmen penned up 10,000 persons from 47 villages, mostly catholics of the Se Dang nationality.

Aside from informers, cruel thugs and 350 civil guards operating on a permanent basis, the enemy disposed of a « pacification " team and a security company under five American advisers who came very often to work on the spot.

Though forced to toil hard, people could not afford to eat their fill, not counting beating and other forms of ill-treatment. Owing to this and the unhealthy conditions of the camp, most of them suffered from diseases, and many died of contagious ones.

Revolted, the inhabitants of Kong H'Rin set out struggle against repression, conscription, corvée for defence-work building, civilian defence duty, and for medical treatment, anti-startation aid and democratic freedoms. On the night of Feb. 22 to 23, with the aid of the PLAF, they rose up and destroyed the camp before getting back to their villages. Enemy cannons went into action and made number of victims. On the 23rd, aircraft and artillery bombarded the concentration zone, slaughtering 350 people in a short time — among whom members of puppet troops' families — and wounding others. The bishop injured by artillery shelling the night before was under the PLAF treatment. Then enemy ground troops supported by tanks burst into the area, massacred many other people and made a clean sweep of their property.

Not withstanding the US-puppets' distortions of the truth, the survivors of the Kong H'Rin slaughter themselves exposed their crime. That is a bloody retaliatory action against minority people in the western Highlands who are up against the scheme of herding them into concentration camps.

This mass slaughter is stirring up a wave of indignation among the Vietnamese people and armed forces, and urging them to avenge their compatriots.

At Ba Lang An

Drowning of near 1000 civilians by the US aggressors

The Committee to Denounce War Crimes committed by the US imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Na n has issued a statement dated on April 2 and a special communique on April 4 to the subject of slaughter by drowning of near 1,000 inhabitants in the Ba Lang An peninsula, Quang Ngai province.

In the special communique, the said Committee has made public a detailed report on this murder as follow:

"Following their large scale raid in Ba Lang An area, the US aggressors and their henchmen herded nearly 11,000 people into the Van Thanh area dedicated to the cult of Confucius, at the Thien An mountain. Almost all of them were old people, women and children. They were detained in 116 camps with galvanized iron roofing or covered with nylon, and surrounded by three barbed wire fences. They were guarded by a company of puppet regular army, a company of "civil guard", two "pacification" teams and a US marine comdany with 8 tanks.

Penned up on burning sand, lacking the minimum sanitation facilities, food and even drinking water, over 70 percent of the detainees mostly old people and children, fell sick. The number of deaths increased day by day.

Faced with this situation, the people rose up in struggle. Having failed to subdue the people, the US aggressors and their henchmen on March 9 sent military vehicles to transfer over 4,000 of them to the Co Lay wharf, then took about 1,000 of those to the sea and drowned them.

A number of survivors and puppet soldiers who had witnessed the crime related: After forcing the people to board junks, the enemy used several motorboats to tug these junks (each pulling four) in the direction of Sa Huynh harbour. On the morning of March 10, these motor-boats turned to the high sea and sailed at top speed until all the junks careened and sank. The people aboard the junks cried for help but in vain.

" That extremely inhumane killing fully exposes the warlike and perfidious nature of the Nixon administration, which, while speaking of its 'desire for peace', denying any attack on civilians, and professing its 'respect' for the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, is actually endeavouring to boost its war of aggression to an extent of brutality hitherto unknown in South Viet Nam.

But the more obdurately the US-puppets persist in their war of aggression and the more crimes they perpetrate in South Viet Nam, the deeper hatred they will arouse among the South Vietnamese people, and the more resolutely the South Vietnamese people will struggle to defeat them completely, thus putting an end to all their crimes.

The policy of savage massacres and destruction failed to save the Hitlerite fascists in the past. Neither can they save the US aggressors and their flunkeys in South Viet Nam at present."

The statement went on : "We energetically denounce this extremely savage crime of the US aggressors and their lackeys to public opinion at home and abroad. We earnestly call on the peoples of other countries including the American people, international democratic organizations, social activists, lawyers, and civil right, religious and peace militants in the world to sternly condemn the US and its puppets, take every positive measure to help check their bloody hands in South Viet Nam, and demand that the US stop its aggression, pull unconditionally all US and satellite troops out of South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people solve their own problems in accordance with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam NFL without foreign interference.

The people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces of South Viet Nam severely warn the US aggressors and their stooges that if they frantically continue committing more crimes against the South Vietnamese people, they will be punished more severely. However stubborn, barbarous and perfidious they may be, they can in no way avoid complete fiasco in South Viet Nam. "'

B 52 CARPET BOMBING

With such catch phrases as "Reduction of B 52 sorties", "Bringing home a number of war-ships", "Cutting down war expedition", Washington has launched a new propaganda campaign to deceive public opinion.

What are hard facts ?

According to statistics given by the US Defence Department, the number of B 52 bombing missions in South Viet Nam is greater than before November 1, 1968, so is the quantity of bombs dropped which averages 120,000 tons per month (UPI March 25). Every month B 52s flew 1,800 bombing missions on an average. AP reported on April 2.

Defence Secretary Melvin R. Laird asked for an additional fund of 102 million dollars to be spent on B. 52 missions during the coming 15 months while the House granted another 75 millions dollars to step up air activities in Viet Nam (AP, March 27).

With their B 52 super-bombers the US aggressors have committed monstruous crimes against the South Vietnamese people. They have turned whole villages into blitzed areas.

Since Tet, the US and puppet air forces have indiscriminately struck densely populated areas in the plains as well as mountain regions to support such large-scale "sweeps" as "Atlas Wedge" at Dau Tieng (March 22), "Frederick Hill" in Quang Nam (March 18), "Purple Martin," North West of Khe Sanh base (February 23), "Geneva Park" and "Iron Mountain" in the North West and South West of Quang Ngai (March 18), and Speedy Express" in the Mekong delta (March 15).

On March 11 alone, B 52s carried out 12 carpet-bombing missions over the two thickly populated villages of Thanh An and Thanh Tuyên (Ben Cat District, Thu Dau Mot province), destroying gardens, crops, houses, and causing other heavy losses to the population.

According to Western information agencies, B 52s fly a daily average of 12 missions, dropping at least 900 tons of bombs each time (UPI April 15) Within 12 hours on March 17, 3,500 tons of bombs were dumped on three places in South Viet Nam, including the vicinity of Saigon.

US Defence Secretary revealed that General Abrams proposed to carry on B 52 activities, ranking those planes among his most effective weapons (AP April 2). With a view to protracting and stepping up the war of aggression, and carrying on neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, the US aggressors cynically declared they would maintain — in an adequate way — the extend and intensity of B 52 bombing to protect the GI's in Viet Nam (Reuter, April 1).

Hard facts in South Viet Nam have given the lie to the recent statement of the Nixon administration that expenditures on B 52 activities would be cut down. It is clear that along with the increase in "sweeps" and fascist measures, Washington has pushed up the activities of B 52 superforts, piling up barbarous crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

But, far from saving the US imperialists, bomb carpets will only bury them deeper into the quagmire.

Against what are directed US-puppet tanks ? Not against PLAF fortifications but against populous districts in the heart of Saigon

"Accelerated Pacification" the last US - Puppet day - dream

WHILE US propaganda used to beat its big drums to publicize Westmoreland's "offensive strategy" and Komer's and Lansdale's "pacification" programmes it has been much more discreet about Abrams's "defensive strategy". What is even more significant, no American name has succeded Komer's in the present programme of "accelerated pacification".

Yet, a lot of trumpeting is still going on. For the machinery of the puppet regime is collapsing and has to be propped up at all costs. However this is such disgusting business that the Americans would rather have it done by their flunkeys. The vilest jobs must be performed if one is to get dollar handouts. And so, Tran Van Huong who, not so long ago, thought of giving up his "premiership" in the Saigon regime to become a zoo-keeper, has been clamouring that his "government" is now in control of 85% of the population of South Viet Nam and hopes to "pacify" the whole country pretty soon. It would be interesting to know the opinion of his province and district chiefs, all army officers, for nothing is more eloquent than facts.

C. hamlet in B. village lies quite close to Thu Thua, the capital of Ben Thu district, Long An province. Before the general offensive of Tet 1968, the whole of B. village was under puppet control and its population concentrated in C. "strategic hamlet". Before Tet 1968, this hamlet had been dismantled but by November 1968 the puppet administration had begun rebuilding it. After repeated bombardments and sweeps, a repressive apparatus was re-established with a civil guard post, three watch-towers and a "popular self-defence corps" entrusted with the task of controlling the population and fighting the "Vietcong" and, for this purpose, equipped with 27 weapons.

On December 27,1968, well informed by the local people about the situation in the hamlet, the guerillas of B. village succeeded in surrounding and disarming, without firing a shot, the "offensive strategy" and Komer's and Lansdale's "pacification" programmes it has been much more discreet about Abrams's "defensive strategy". What is even more significant, no American name has succeded Komer's in the present programme of "accelerated pacification".

Yet, a lot of trumpeting is still going on. For the machinery of the puppet regime is collapsing and has to be propped up at all costs. However this is such disgusting business that the Americans would rather have it done by their flunkeys. The vilest jobs must be performed if one is to get dollar handouts. And so, Tran Van Huong who, not so long ago, thought of giving up his "premiership" in the Saigon regime to become a zoo-keeper, has been clamouring that his "government" is now in control of 85% of the population of South Viet Nam and hopes to "pacify" the whole country pretty soon. It would be interesting to know the opinion of his province and district chiefs, all army officers, for nothing is more eloquent than facts.

C. hamlet in B. village lies quite close to Thu Thua, the capital of Ben Thu district, Long An province. Before the general offensive of Tet 1968, the whole of B. village was under puppet control and its population concentrated in C. "strategic hamlet". Before Tet 1968, this hamlet had been dismantled but by November 1968 the puppet administration had begun rebuilding it. After repeated bombardments and sweeps, a repressive apparatus was re-established with a civil guard post, three watch-towers and a "popular self-defence corps" entrusted with the task of controlling the population and fighting the "Vietcong" and, for this purpose, equipped with 27 weapons.

On December 27,1968, well informed by the local people about the situation in the hamlet, the guerillas of B. village succeeded in surrounding and disarming, without firing a shot, the "popular self-defence corps", whose members were warned not to let themselves be enrolled again in that organisation. Twenty-three weapons were seized — 16 carbines and 7 shotguns. Later the four remaining weapons were handed to the population to be transmitted to the guerillas. The following day, the puppet district authorities arrested the head of the village civil guard post for having failed to come to the rescue of the hamlet, and four members of the "popular self-defence corps" suspected of collusion with the guerillas. This aroused fierce protests from the "popular self-defence corps" supported by the entire village population, who demanded the release of the arrested persons and refused to collaborate with the authorities.

— X hamlet in A. village, Duc Hoa district, Hau Nghia province, contained an important operational base of puppet regulars. There was a permanent garrison of one company, and two battalions often came for raids on the neighbourhood. Besides, there were a civil guard post and an armed police station for traffic control on the highway. In 1965, the hamlet had been turned into a "strategic hamlet" where people rounded up in neighbouring village were penned up, but before the Tet offensives the hamlet had been dismantled by the population and contained only 80 households comprising about 400 people, among them 8 families of puppet soldiers and 4 of puppet civil servants.

By October 1968, the enemy began rebuilding the "strategic hamlet". A "pacification team" and a platoon of civil guards were sent there to re-establish an administrative apparatus while troops launched repeated "sweeps" to "clear out" the area and isolate it from the neighbouring liberated regions. After a month of feverish actions, in which maximum pressure was brought to bear on the local people, the enemy succeeded in restoring the administrative machinery, the inter-family control with census lists, fences, etc., and the "popular self-defence corps".

However, all those organisations did not last very long. In spite of continuous "mopups" by enemy troops, NFL village cadres with the help of the guerillas penetrated by night into the hamlet to revive the people's fighting spirit and give them guidance in breaking the grip of the enemy. After a few nights' preparations, a small guerilla unit made its way into the hamlet and took to the liberated area a score members of the administrative, inter-family control and self-defence organisations set up by the enemy. That very night, the people destroyed all census lists, fences and other forms of control. The following morning, about a hundred hamlet people together with the families of the persons taken away by the guerillas went to the military base, the district centre and the provincial capital to tell the authorities that they could do nothing against the guerillas and refused to collaborate in any further schemes to restore puppet organisations. The province chief himself did not know which way to turn and finally, the hamlet was left to stay, as before, out of the control of the Saigon regime.

— It is impossible to give a complete account of the multiform and very ingenious ways in which the regional liberation forces, the guerillas and the people struggle against the enemy's schemes for "accelerated pacification". Their common feature is the combination of armed actions, political struggle and agitation work among the enemy troops.

As for the results of that "accelerated pacification" by the Americans and their puppets, nothing describes them more fittingly than this remark by a puppet province chief : "Pacification ! It's the work of little crabs making tiny sand balls on the beach to be washed away by the sea. "

NGOC DIEP

After the trial of Superior Thich Thien Minh

Mounting indignation in the buddhist community

OVER the recent weeks, the Buddhists in South Viet Nam have been struggling without let-up for the restoration of peace. This is part and parcel of the urban population's larger movement for the withdrawal of American troops, an end to the war, the overthrow of the warlike and anti-Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, and the formation of a peace cabinet that will engage in serious talks with the National Front for Liberation.

The Saigon administration has increased fascist measures to contain the mounting wave of struggle in the urban centres and other US-occupied areas of South Viet Nam.

Answering journalists on March 2, Superior Thich Thien Hoa, Head of the Buddhist Institute pointed out: "By every means the administration is fabricating false pretexts to repress the Buddhists' movement for the re-establishment of peace".

The trial before the 3rd Tactical Area field tribunal of Superior Thich Thien Minh, Deputy Head of the Buddhist Institute and Deputy Director General of the Buddhist Youth Department, charged with of "housing rebels and keeping weapons and illegal documents" is part of Thieu-Ky-Huong's said plot.

This, however, has exploded like a political bomb contrarily to the expectation of the Saigon ruling clique, and aroused widespread indignation at home and abroad.

The protest movement triggered off by the trial of Superior Thich Thien Minh and fifty Buddhist students has rapidly spread among the Saigon population. "Politically", observed AFP (March 18), "the trial of Thich Thien Minh after several months during which the anti-government Buddhist section have kept silent, has touched off a protest drive fraught with increasing danger".

The Buddhist community regards such an act as "a war declaration against millions of Buddhist believers". In the eyes of the South Vietnamese in general, it "cynically flouts the nation's aspiration for peace".

After the sentence had been made public, 2,000 representatives and several leaders of the Buddhist community, even a number of members of the Saigon "Parliament" including Mrs Kieu Mong Thu — a deputy met at An Quang Pagoda to pray for peace and denounce the unjustified arrest and illegal trial of Superior Thich Thien Minh. The leadership of the Viet Nam Buddhist United Church in Saigon stated: "This sentence is invalid, unjust and inhuman. Foreigners have pulled the wires". The United States lies at the root of all that happens in Viet Nam", a superior said. "So, it must bear responsibility for it".

Last March 29, AP reported that the night before about 1,000 supporters of the militant Buddhists had gathered at An Quang Pagoda for three straight hours to protest the 10-year jail term inflicted upon Superior Thich Thien Minh. That was the Buddhists' second action against the trial and, according to the same agency, at the meeting attended by several MPs a number of those who had raised their voice said that the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration repressed Buddhism. While the protesters demanded the cancellation of the sentence, nearly a hundred young Buddhists met at the premises of the Socialist Buddhist Students' Association (of the pro-government Thich Tam Chau tendency), as a token of their solidarity with the drive against repression. The police dispersed the rally.

The trial of Superior Thich Thien Minh has stirred up the entire Buddhist community of South Viet Nam. Reverend Thich Don Hau, former Representative of the Viet Nam Buddhist United Church at Van Hanh, Thua Thien province, now Vice President of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and Mr. Lam Van Tet, also Vice President of the Alliance, stated they energetically protested Thieu-Ky-Huong's terroristic measures against Buddhism, reminiscent of the Ngo Dinh Diem regime. Meanwhile, in East Nambo, Reverend Thich Hung Tu, President of the Viet Nam Association for the Defence of Buddhism, issued a declaration denouncing the Americans and the Saigon authorities, and calling on public opinion at home and abroad to demand the annulment of the sentence and the release of Superior Thich Thien Minh and the Buddhist students.

Voices have already been raised in several countries in response to the appeal of the Viet Nam Buddhist United Church and the Viet Nam Association for the Defence of Buddhism. In urgent messages to South Vietnamese Buddhist organizations the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with the South Vietnamese people, the Democratic Lawyers' International Association, the Japanese Council of Religions, the Association of Vietnamese Buddhist Nationals Abroad, the Union of Vietnamese Nationals in France, etc. have shown their determination to struggle for the release of Superior Thich Thien Minh and the Buddhist students who have been condemned to prison terms for their demand for the restoration of peace in their country.

Behind the rising struggle against the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, a violent storm is gathering. By striking at the Buddhists on orders from their American masters, they are courting defeat, and sowing the wind, sooner or later they will reap the whirlwind.

HA DUY PHUOC

In our liberated zones

How education work develops in my village?

T village is located close to H. town in the suburbs of Saigon. In this region the Americans and their puppets have carried out a policy of barbarous terror in the hope of building a «safety belt» for their last lair. A good part of the US 25th Infantry Division is stationed there, besides puppet troops of various services. The whole area is studded with military posts. The banks of the Vam Co river are bombarded by artillery and planes, including B.52 strategic bombers Ever since the start of the general offensives and simultaneous uprisings by the people and liberation armed forces, and in face of the unprecedented successes reaped by them, the Americans and their puppets have reacted even more frantically. There have been months when the village was raided no less than thirty times by infantry and armour.

And yet, in spite of all this, production work has been maintained while the people's fighting spirit has never been higher. Educational work also has made good progress.

For the building, maintenance, and development of educational work, the teachers have worked out original ways in keeping with the requirements of war and the needs of the people. The village educational board, which includes two women among its three members, has put forward a plan for educational development in accordance with the line set forth by the provincial authorities; to combine teaching and study with other revolutionary tasks, with life and production work, at the same time to create favourable conditions for instance by countering enemy raids, taking protective measures against air and artillery bombardment and ensuring safety for the children.

The people pay great attention to the education of their children, aware that the development of education is an urgent requirement both for themselves and for the revolution. And so, although the enemy engages in repeated forays, carries out ceaseless air and artillery bombardments, sets fire to school buildings, smashes school furniture and equipment, arrests, beats up and even massacres teachers and pupils, the village people have overcome all difficulties and made it possible for their children to go on with their studies. Classes are dispersed: children go to class in twos or threes along communication trenches fitted with good shelters; each class holds no more than 10 or 15 pupils at a time. Good shelters stand nearly; plans have been worked out for emergency dispersal, and besides, classes are constantly on the move. Teachers, pupils' parents, and the people living in the area around the school, all cooperate in ensuring safety for the children.

The most important problem is how to cope with enemy infantry raids and air and artillery bombardments. The protective measures taken have proved to be highly efficient, and damage and casualties have been greatly limited. Should an enemy raid take place in the morning, classes might reopen that very afternoon, for the pupils, quick to disperse, are also quick to reassemble.

Thanks to this careful organization, the number of pupils and classes has ceaselessly grown. Teachers are given refresher courses and new ones trained. Teachers for infant classes are trained at the village, while those for the higher grades receive their training at the provincial teachers' college.

Teachers and pupils participate heartily in all village work: carrying goods, caring for the wounded, digging trenches and building shelters, announcing news of victories, serving the front, etc... Amidst the destructions of war, the voices of the children reading their lessons and singing are a strong stimulus for the people. Teachers take turns participating in various revolutionary works: during their absence from school, their jobs are done by their colleagues. At present, school enrolment at the pilot hamlet has reached over 100. The major part of the children in the hamlet are attending classes.

Thanks to the care and concern of the village branch of the NFL, the determination of the village people to build schools and protect teachers and pupils, and the selfless devotion of the teachers, educational work in T. village has strongly developed with each passing day, in spite of all enemy efforts to stifle the new life blossoming in the liberated areas. This testifies to the powerful vitality of the NFL Political Program, and to the resolve and strength born of the solidarity and fighting will of the people in the liberated areas. It is thanks to these factors that the people of T. village have got the better of the Americans and their valets on the educational as well as on the military, political and economic fronts.

LE THU

Member of the educational board of T. village

A glimpse at the liberated zone: opened under improvised roofs, school classes dispose of progressive curriculum.

Photo: *GPA*

Imagitive figures

THE puppet vice-premier Tran Thien Khiem has made public the returns of "rural elections". Speaking at a press conference in Saigon on April 1, he claimed that 83 to 89, 7 per cent of the electors had gone to the polls. The press immediately observed, "200 per cent would be equally normal". And an American adviser whispered into the ear of a journalist: "General Khiem overshot the mark".

Indeed, hadn't AP (June 16, 1968) estimated that US and Saigon troops "control only 20% of the territory"? UPI (August 27, 1968) also said that the PLAF spirit of discipline and organization considerably surpass that of the puppet forces and that the NFL is master of the countryside. It's now common knowledge that people's councils and Liberation Committees have been set up throughout the territory. It's no secret either that such a state of affairs constitutes a major concern of the Pentagon which disposes of no better antidote than a mediocre "accelerated pacification plan".

In such a situation, the returns of "rural elections" bombastically announced by Saigon turn out to be a badly staged comedy. According to Western sources, the population has altogether boycotted this political farce. Leaflets have been distributed in "strategic hamlets" on March 15, inducing the inhabitants to remain at home. The next day — election day forcibly brought to ballot booths, they refused to poll. For the sake of peace and to please their superiors, the soldiers put down their own names on the register of voters. That was also in this way that 700 people of Duc Hoa, Cho Lon province, resisted "rural elections". Brushes between "electors" and policemen detailed to assemble them flared up at Gia Hoa, Tam Phuoc, Tan Thanh, Tan Phu, Son Hoa and Phu Long in Truc Giang district, Ben Tre province. The elections ended in total failure at Than Cuu Nghia, Tan Hoa Thanh, Tan Ly Dong and Tan Ly Tay in Chau Thanh district, My Tho province for the pure and simple reason that none of the "electors" had come to the booths on election day.

Obviously, Tran Thien Khiem is pretty imaginative.

Spring in embattled Hue (*)

Afternoon sun rays filtered through the foliage of flames of the forest whose spreading branches hung over the thick, tall and lily-flower-covered fence behind mother Hai's house. They filled the small, quiet backyard with multiple golden spangles. Boy and girl students of the Medical and Literature Departments has just come by bicycle to gather here, sitting on stone benches on which nobody had sat for quite a time.

It was then that mother Hai returned home as Tet market-day had drawn to its close.

Doan, living in the same street, introduced her friends to her: Lien, Cuc, Thuy, Tuan and Hoang, members of a revolutionary-activity group.

Knowing Mrs Hai was Phuong's mother, Tuan said:

"Two weeks after Phuong had given up study and left for Saigon, then for the maquis, Thuy and I followed her example; I too have left my family but will stick to Hue. I've received a letter from her, she promised to meet me again. Now she's politically much more advanced than any of us here."

Mother Hai nodded her head and invited the group to come in:

"With you back here, my children, I don't miss Phuong as I used to. You'll do what you like later, now enjoy Tet festival with me".

"In this emergency situation, mother?" asked Lien, maliciously. "Won't you abide by the emergency situation order issued by the province chief's office? You're not afraid of cobs and American marines searching every street for political suspects, are you?"

"Me, afraid?" retorted the old woman with a broad smile. Tet's our festival, not theirs. Why should they mind not to put restrictions these days? I don't care for their emergency situation order".

Outside the streets had been lighted up a long while ago. A fairly chilling breeze blew from the Perfume River. Now and then screaming lorries overlooded with American GIs ran past at full speed.

Lien glanced at her watch and told Hoang:

"Take my overcoat, put it on and go to X, near Truong Tiên bridge. It's the right time".

Hoang put the thin coat over his khaki jacket and told Doan to go and open the gate. He sprang up from his seat and shook hands with each of his friends. Mother Hai looked at him with pride and admiration, took him into her arms and kissed his forehead.

The old woman mitigated the light of the lamp on the table, burnt a few incense sticks which she planted on Buddha's altar, then prepared some more tea. Meanwhile, Tuan, Lien, Cuc and Thuy packed up their hand luggage.

Doan came back from the gate with two pedicabs, each carrying an apparently heavy leather trunk. Lien dashed out, telling the old drivers to proceed directly to the backyard. She asked one of them:

"Any draw back on the way? Did Hoang send us anything?"

"Everything's all right. We'd the protection of soldiers on patrol, according to plan".

"Little Hoang asked me to bring you an American electric torch", said the other driver.

So saying he handed the torch to Tuan who opened it and took out a slip of paper hidden in a battery. He passed the paper to Lien. After reading it, she said:

"There are four AKs and two M.16s in the trunks, comrades. Let each of you have a choice, right away. We're starting in fifteen minutes".

Four explosions suddenly outbroke somewhere on the right bank of the Perfume River, followed by sustained rounds of machinegun fire. Light went out all over the city. The alarm signal was sounded.

Mother Hai opened one leaf of the backgate and hid behind it. Doan, Liên, Cuc, Tuan, Thuy and the two pedicab drivers, with rifles slung over their shoulders and handgrenades on their backs, rushed out towards their previously set up positions. The whole town shook under the thundering of all kinds of weapons.

The old woman walked back to her room. She lowered the light of the kerosene lamp, then went to sit down in a corner of the yard, leaning her back against the fence. She gazed at the luminous streaks criss-crossing the pitch-dark sky, and the flames shooting up from burning buildings. She could thus unmistakably follow the advance of Liberation troops and make out which of the Yankees' and puppets' redoubts had, one after another, been wiped out.

At day-break the city became unusually animated with music and news of victories from loud-speakers.

Flags appeared everywhere. Hue looked like a forest of flags. NFL flags fluttered atop of the Ngo Mon gate's tower, at the Chinh Tay gate, from Gia Hoi to An Cuu and Dong Ba, throughout the labouring people's quarters, all along Hung Vuong and Mai Thuc Loan streets.

Thousands, tens of thousands of people took into the streets. They clustered into groups, held meetings, dug combat ditches, built up barricades and received arms and ammunition from the revolutionary forces. They hoisted flags, hung up lanterns and erected triumphal arches. An enthusiastic atmosphere prevailed, imbued with the determination to push up the offensive and repel enemy counter-attacks.

Fighting resumed. The adversary bombarded from warships of the Thuan estuary, from blockhouses inside Hue. Liberation troops and city self-defence units returned the fire from high-storeyed buildings against the enemy entrenched at some points in Hong Bang and Mai Thuc Loan streets and at Cong market-place. Here the self-defence squad under Lien fiercely grappled with an enemy company and successfully checked their stubborn attempt to move ahead. She and her comrades fought for each room and each street corner. They proved very clever at long-range shooting just as at driving their opponent to cluster at a short distance from them so as to knock them down wholesale. In three days they wiped out 120 Americans and set afire 3 armoured cars M.113 and as many jeeps.

In a gathering held three days later in ward X to hail the successes of the armed forces and people, an NFL cadre cited the feat of arms of Lien's squad and mother Hai's worthy contribution. With bare hands the latter had captured an American colonel who, perused by revolutionary fighters, tried to hide in a kitchen. Loud applauses resounded time and again, and each time bouquets were thrown into the air to everybody's delight.

After the meeting all those who had attended it paraded along the city's main streets, turning their eyes to the fluttering banner of the National Front for Liberation, on the Ngo Mon gate's tower, and walking at the rhythm of the song sung by the NFL art ensemble:

"Forward!

"Forward! complete victory will be ours!"

MINH PHUONG

(*) *The following story dated back to the general offensive and uprising early in* 1968.

A woman - guerilla of Ca Mau province
Drawing by Thai Ha.

A noble gesture of internationalism

In a little more than two months — January 23 — March 31 — the French people have brought to a successful end the "A Hundred Million France for Viet Nam" drive started by the French National Committee of Action for the Support and Victory of the Vietnamese People. To the latter as a whole and the South Vietnamese in particular, this is a great assistance. By taking part in this campaign millions of labourers, manual and brain workers, together with peace and progressive forces in France, once again have reaffirmed their determination to contribute to achieving an early end to our resistance against US aggression. A hundred million francs are quite a sum, an effective help for our struggle for national salvation. But nobler, and more important, is the militant solidarity of long-standing between the Vietnamese and French peoples, of which the said fund-raising drive forms a splendid manifestation. As Waldeck Rochet, President of the NCASVFP, stated at the closing ceremony: "The success of this campaign constitute another demonstration of the French people's profound solidarity with the just and lofty cause of the Vietnamese people. Naturally, we shall continue to show our solidarity with, and support for, the Vietnamese people, especially on the political plane".

The action taken by the French people is all the more significant as it takes place at a time when our struggle has shifted to a new stage — very hard but shining with bright prospects — when the Nixon administration stubbornly intensifies the US war of aggression, perpetrates fresh crimes against our countrymen and at the same time multiplies follies to fool world opinion. This action shows that by speeding up their aggressive undertaking the yankees and their agents are further unmasked and isolated in the international arena.

The South Vietnamese people highly appreciate the strong support and effective aid of the French people. They wish further success to the NCASVFP and sincerely thank all the labouring people, manual and brain workers, all democratic, progressive and peace forces in France who have contributed to push ahead their resistance to US aggression through to total victory.

American demonstrators demand an end to US war

Responding to an appeal of the National Mobilization to End the War in Viet Nam, hundreds of thousands of Americans in 43 states on April 5 turned into the streets urging a halt to the US war in Viet Nam, pull-out of GIs from South Viet Nam, and restoration of peace in Viet Nam, according to reports from the US. This was the first great protest wave against the US war in Viet Nam since the beginning of the Nixon administration.

Participants in the demonstrations, old and young, Black and White, included unionists, clergymen, professors, anti-Viet Nam war groups, GIs on active service and demobilized armymen.

In New York, about 70,000 marched up Sixth Avenue and massed in Central Park in the "biggest peace demonstration in New York in two years", UPI reported.

At the rally in Central Park, Richard Cartright, representing the GIs, declared that the US war in Viet Nam is "immoral, and contradicts the American people's interests."

The rally unanimously voiced solidarity with the American soldiers opposed to Washington's adventure in Viet Nam.

Howard Zim, Professor of Boston University, declared that the American people must urge Washington to stop this "barbarous and unjust war".

Reuter and AP said on April 5 thousands of people in New York including, for the first time, GIs still in service, wearing black arm-bands bearing the number "33,000" (doctored US casualty figures by the US government—Ed.) and holding flags of the South Viet Nam NFL and the US marched in the city demanding an immediate end to the US aggression in Viet Nam. The demonstrators brought with them long lists of names of the US troops died in Viet Nam and placards which said that demonstrations would continue as long as the war in Viet Nam went on.

At a meeting in Madison Square, a speaker pointed out that the American people" "have responsibility to continue the pressure to see" Nixon "carries out his promise" to end the war. "It's not only the boys who are dying," he said, "the cities here are dying as well."

At another rally, a number of active duty servicemen burned their draft cards to ashes.

New York observers noted the presence of more GIs in this year's anti-war demonstrations than in any previous year.

In San Francisco, 20,000 people, Black and White, held a parade through the city behind a flag of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

In Chicago, defying the presence of over 500 policemen, nearly 20,000 demonstrators marched for 2 hours in what UPI described as "the first large-scale demonstration since President Nixon took office". The agency noted that among the demonstrators "were an undetermined number of American soldiers."

In Atlanta, more than 2,500 paraded in protest against the Viet Nam war and for immediate restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

In Philadelphia, the pickets marched all day long of April 4 in front of public buildings and induction centres.

The same day, a group of demonstrators entered a selective service board office in Philadelphia and began reading the names of American troops killed in Viet Nam. Those doing the reading, expected to take more than 15 hours, included clergymen, professors and housewives. Some carried lighted candles. Hymns were sung.

A spokesman for the protesters said the group had decided to read the names to express their "grief and sorrow for the loss of life for no purpose in Viet Nam".

"We want to appeal to the President and the people of the country to bring the slaughter to an end by withdrawing the US armed forces," he said.

THE GIRON FIGHTERS' SPIRIT WILL LIVE FOR EVER

On April 17, 1961, with the support of US aircraft and warships, mercenary troops entertained, trained and commanded by the Americans launched an attack on Cuba. Barely after 72 hours of valiant fighting, Cuban forces smashed them to smithereens. Giron—the name of the place where this event occurred eight years ago—still resounds proudly in the heart of the world's revolutionary people. The Giron battle, the first military defeat of US imperialism in the Western hemisphere, is the glorious victory of the Cuban people's determination to sacrifice everything for their independence and liberty.

Ardent patriotism and revolutionary heroism lay at the root of so many exploits achieved by the armed forces and people of Cuba in the historic battle of Giron. Just as the Cubans, we Vietnamese shall never forget the shining examples of the five fighters who, holding high revolutionary vigilance, succeeded in detecting the enemy, reported their invasion attempt to the Army Command and courageously resisted a landing force several hundred times bigger until they all died on the spot. Their feat had thus made it possible from the outset to frustrate the aggressor's intention to make a secret deep thrust into the hinterland and topple the newly established revolutionary power. We shall neither forget the ten pilots who, with only three planes, flew 70 missions in three days, and brought down eight American planes and sank modern warships. One can safely that in those days the Cuban people and armed forces mainly used their morale to oppose the armour of their enemy and win a splendid victory.

Following up this historic victory in all fields of socialist construction the Cuban people have made of a US poor and backward country, a bastion against imperialism in the Western hemisphere and a beacon in Latin America.

The Giron victory has taken on a great significance from the international point of view. For the United States, it constitutes a bitter political and military defeat in the eyes of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples. For socialism, it is the first victorious confrontation with US imperialism in the Western hemisphere. It is the victory of a united people in their resistance to foreign invasion.

Though thousands of miles apart, Cuba and South Viet Nam are fighting against the same enemy — the US aggressor — one in the Western hemisphere and the other in Southeast Asia. The Cuba people regard the South Vietnamese people's victories as their own and are giving them considerable support. They are carrying into effet Premier Fidel Castro's stirring words: "For Viet Nam we are ready to sacrifice even our blood".

Strongly encouraged by the people of Cuba and the other socialist countries and progressive people the world over, the South Vietnamese people are rushing forward in the flush of their successes. The PLAF battalion who has the honour of bearing the name of the Giron is bringing the latter's spirit of revolutionary offensive into full play so as, together with our entire people and armed forces, to give the enemy no respite and register brilliant victories.

Commemorating the Giron victory this year, the Cuban people push ahead an enthusiastic emulation drive for nation construction — especially the realization of the 10 million-ton target set for 1970 in sugar production — and for the defence of their fatherland against the US imperialists' scheme and acts of aggression. Their boisterous ardour, reminiscent of the Giron days, has given rise to a "revolutionary offensive" movement which allows socialist construction to make a new stride forward. Revolutionary heroism, embodied by the Giron combatants' determination to fight and to win, has born its fruits in the Island of Liberty. The Giron tradition which will live for ever with Cuban people is also contributing to the victories of the South Vietnamese people.

Long live the Giron fighters' spirit!

HOANG BICH SON
Head of the South Viet Nam NFL Permanent Mission in Cuba.

Cuban painters work for South Viet Nam.

Photo: Prensa Latina